

***Gilad's not so sweet music angers***

***Jews across the board***

**An article about the recent activities of the anti-Zionist Jew Gilad Atzmon and the attempts by his political opponents to obstruct him.**



**Gilad Atzmon**

**Gilad Atzmon was born in Tel Aviv and served as a paramedic in the IDF. In the 1990s he moved to the UK as a student, graduated from the University of Essex, and later became a British citizen. With a Masters Degree in Philosophy he might have opted for a career in high academe, but instead became a professional musician, fusing his love of jazz with Middle Eastern, especially Arab music, and winning acclaim worldwide both as a saxophonist and as a composer. And as recent events have demonstrated, there are those who wish he would continue to develop his musical career, and keep his nose out of Middle East politics.**

**Gilad Atzmon is an anti-Zionist Jew, not a rare animal nowadays after two Intifadas, *Operation Cast Lead*, and the Flotilla Massacre, but there are those even amongst anti-Zionist Jews who believe he goes too far, and after considerable pressure from both sides, the University of Westminster cancelled a meeting he had organised for May 3 to discuss “Israel criminality in the wake of the Goldstone Report”, as the *Jewish Chronicle* put it.**

**The meeting went ahead nevertheless, albeit at a different venue and with some necessary subterfuge, something that in the UK is usually reserved for meetings of the so-called “racist” right. Atzmon’s views on the meeting are espoused in [an article](#) *Winners and Losers*, published two days later. He is clearly more perturbed by anti-Zionist opposition to his *ad hoc* campaigning than by mainstream liberal Jews or Zionists. One of his fiercest critics, whom he accuses of actions bordering on betrayal, is Naomi Wimborne-Idrissi, who was arrested in June 2008 after an incident in which she unveiled a T-shirt which bore the slogan “Palestinian blood on Israeli hands” ; the charges were later dropped.**

Being opposed by people who exhibit that sort of passion could be disheartening, but Atzmon obviously takes heart from what he alluded to earlier as a coming paradigm shift on the Middle East. He finished the packed meeting with what Lauren Booth — the sister-in-law of Tony Blair — referred to as his trademark frippery: “The real genius of the Jews (i)s that they made God into an estate agent and the *Bible* into a land registry”. Could any Gentile say that without causing a furore?

The other, Gentile, speakers at Atzmon’s meeting showed more reserve; he shared a platform with the author Alan Hart, former Middle East Chief Correspondent for Independent Television News; author, TV producer and publisher, Karl Sabbagh; and Palestinian journalist Sameh Habeeb.

Immediately afterwards, he flew off to New York for a short US tour combining jazz with more political meetings. It goes without saying that he will ruffle a few feathers there, and wherever he goes.

On May 9, Atzmon’s sister put the video of the London meeting on-line.

[The above op-ed was [published originally](#) May 6, 2011 (dated May 5) with the above photograph. It was deleted on or after March 3, 2021, (the last date it was archived).]